

**REMARKS**

Claims 22-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-21 have been canceled.

**Argument**

In view of the comments made by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, claims 1-21 have been canceled, and new claims 22-31 have been added. The new claims further define the award of priority between and among threads in a processor. In particular, claim 22 includes the limitation that a thread is given longer access to a resource based on a counting operation on a set value loaded into a counter. As recited in claim 22, a value is set for each thread depending on the priority assigned to each thread (e.g., as in claim 23, the higher priority thread gets a higher value than a lower priority thread as a down-counter will take longer to reach zero if a higher value is loaded into it for a particular thread). In view of the new features in the claims, favorable consideration of claims 22-31 is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

For all the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4255 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,  
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